

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. The most restive areas are those of Shkoder, Matit, Burrel and Mirdite in the mountainous terrain of northern Albania which is most suitable for resistance activity. The Tirana Government has taken severe measures to suppress resistance in Burrel, Matit, Mirdite and Puke. This restiveness is attributed to the fact that the leaders of the Albanian Workers' (Communist) Party needlessly antagonized the people in the northern regions by having committed certain atrocities during resistance activities in World War II. Hence, northerners have never been closely associated with the Albanian Communist Party or with the National Liberation Front. Another factor contributing to unrest is the Catholic clergy which understands the implications of Communism and agitates against the regime.
2. Thus the Albanian Communist Party has never gained a stronghold in the north. There is hardly a Party official from this area and there are few local Party members to engage in propaganda work. Party agitators from southern Albania have had little success because of the traditional northern attitude of: "To h... with the south."
3. The wealthy peasants and those of moderate means have been particularly hostile to the regime because they were deprived of their lands. These peasants were the main supporters of King Zog's regime and furnished many of the men who made up the King's officer corps.

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